

November 18, 2019

AS WORLD AIDS DAY NEARS, START THE CONVERSATION ABOUT PREVENTION

In Pinellas, World AIDS Day Celebrated on Saturday, Dec. 7



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Each December, **World AIDS Day** is an opportunity to bring communities together in the battle against the disease, to show support to those who live with HIV and to remember those who've died from AIDS-related illness. Since 1988, it has created awareness about, and focused attention on, the worldwide effort to fight the stigma associated with HIV.



DOH-Pinellas staff at the 2018 World AIDS Day event.

The Pinellas Planning Partnership, a community effort that includes the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County will celebrate **World AIDS Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7**, at the new Center for Health Equity, 2333 34th St. S., St. Petersburg. The event brings no-cost health screenings, giveaways, entertainment, speakers food. There will live radio coverage by The Beat 95.7-FM and its personality Queen B.

The program includes a 10:30 a.m. presentation by Joaquin Hubert from DOH-Pinellas. His "PrEP 101" focuses on the effective, once-daily pill regimen that prevents new HIV infections when used as directed. PrEP is provided at no cost

at DOH-Pinellas clinics in St. Petersburg and Mid-County. For information, call the PrEP office at (727) 568-8006.

The program also includes a keynote address and testimony from a local community member who is living with HIV. In addition, there will be community awards and recognition of those who have worked in the field of HIV/AIDS providing community education and information. For information or vendor registration, contact Bernard Washington via email at WAD.StPete@gmail.com or via phone at (727) 553-3410.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, as estimated 13 percent of those living with HIV/AIDS didn't know they were infected. The CDC recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV at least once in their lives and more often if they're at higher risk. Men who have sex with men and injection-drug users should be tested once a year. HIV/AIDS statistics for Pinellas and Pasco counties are posted at <http://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/infectious-disease-services/hiv-aids/newsletter/hiv-surveillance/documents/2016/area-5-hiv-aids-newsletter-1st-quarter-2017.pdf>

For information about DOH-Pinellas, go to www.PinellasHealth.com and follow us on Twitter @HealthyPinellas.

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